

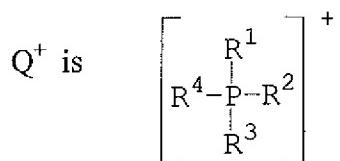
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

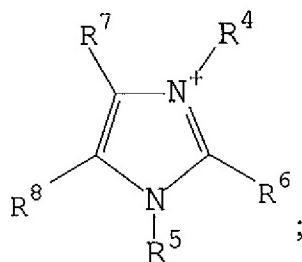
1. (currently amended) A compound having the general formula (I):



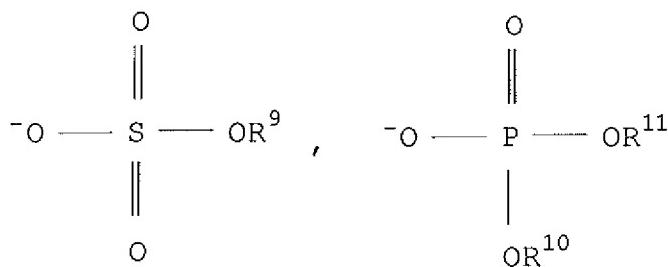
wherein



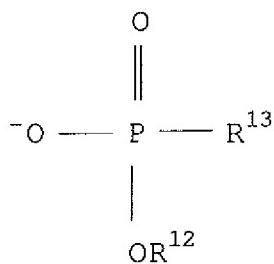
or



and



or



and wherein:

each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ is independently a hydrocarbyl group;

each of R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ is independently a hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group;

with the proviso that:

(i) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a phosphate, or a phosphonate anion other than a phosphonate in which R^{13} is perfluorohydrocarbyl, then R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 each has three or more carbon atoms;

(ii) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a sulfate then the sum of carbon atoms in R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is greater than 4;

(iii) when Q^+ is an imidazolium cation, X^- is not a sulfate anion; and

(iv) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation, X^- is methylsulfate, and one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is methyl, the others of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 cannot be 2-cyanoethyl; and

(v) Q^+X^- is not 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium dibutylphosphate.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^+ is a tetralkylphosphonium and X^- is an alkylsulfate anion.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are hydrocarbyl groups with three or more carbon atoms.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are each n-butyl.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to any one of claims 2 to 4claim 1, wherein:

R^4 is methyl and $[[R^6]]$ R^5 is methyl; or

R^4 is ethyl and $[[R^6]]$ R^5 is ethyl; or

R^4 is n-butyl and $[[R^6]]$ R^5 is n-butyl.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

tri-(n-butyl)methylphosphonium methylsulfate;

tri-(n-butyl)ethylphosphonium ethylsulfate;

tetra-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;

triethyl-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;

tetrabutylphosphonium dibutylphosphate;

tri-iso-butyl-butylphosphonium dibutylphosphate

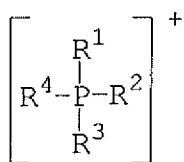
N,N-dimethylimidazolium dimethylphosphate;
~~N-methyl-N-butylimidazolium dibutylphosphate;~~ and
N-methyl-N-ethylimidazolium ethylethanephosphonate; and
tributylmethylphosphonium methyltrifluoromethanephosphonate.

7. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):

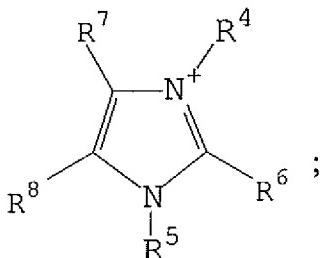


wherein

Q^+ is

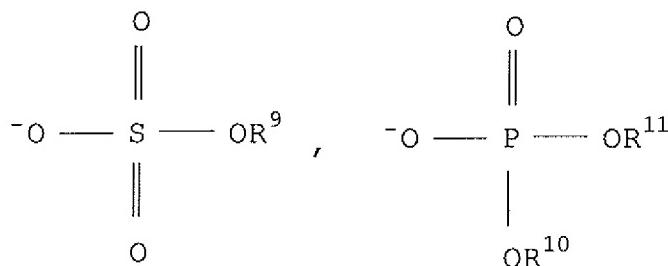


or

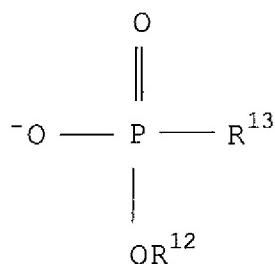


and

X^- is



or



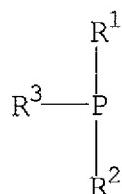
and wherein:

each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , and R^{13} is independently a hydrocarbyl group;
each of R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 , is a hydrogen or hydrocarbyl group;

with the proviso that:

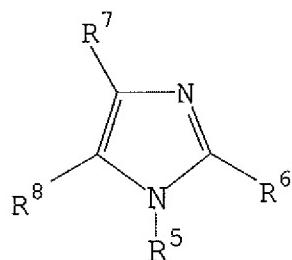
- (i) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a phosphate, or a phosphonate anion other than a phosphonate in which R^{13} is perfluorohydrocarbyl, then R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 each has three or more carbon atoms;
- (ii) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a sulfate then the sum of carbon atoms in R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is greater than 4;
- (iii) when Q^+ is an imidazolium cation, X^- is not a sulfate; and
- (iv) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation, X^- is methylsulfate, and one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is methyl, the others of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 cannot be 2-cyanoethyl[.]; and
- (v) Q^+X^- is not 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium dibutylphosphate

the process comprising reacting a compound of formula (II):



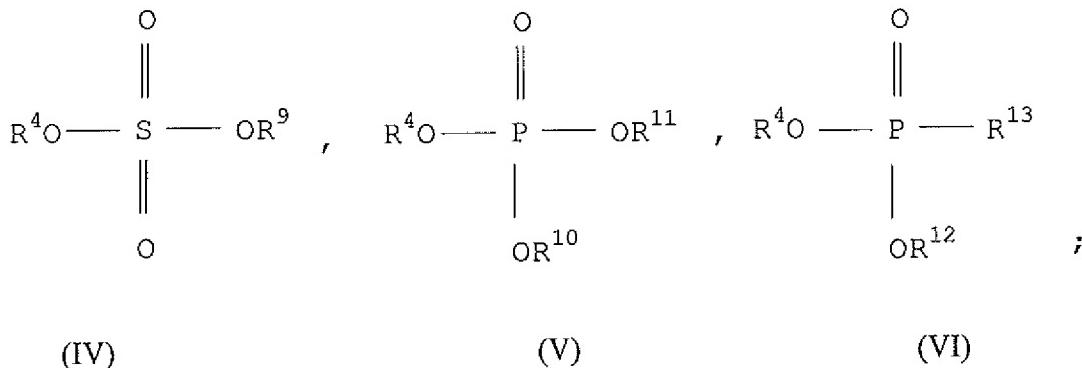
wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 is independently a hydrocarbyl group,

or formula (III):



wherein R^5 is a hydrocarbyl group, and cation of R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is independently a hydrogen or hydrocarbyl group,

with a compound defined by one of the following formulae:



wherein each of R⁴, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ is a hydrocarbyl group.

8. (original) The process of claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out in the absence of solvent.
 9. (currently amended) The process of claim 7, wherein Q⁺ is a tetralkylphosphonium and and X⁻ is an alkylsulfate anion.
 10. (original) The process of claim 9, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are hydrocarbyl groups with three or more carbon atoms.
 11. (original) The process of claim 9, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are each n-butyl.
 12. (currently amended) The process of any one of claims 7 to [[11]]8, wherein
 - (a) R⁴ and [[R⁶]] R⁵ are both methyl; or
 - (b) R⁴ and [[R⁶]] R⁵ are both ethyl; or
 - (c) R⁴ and [[R⁶]] R⁵ are both n-butyl.
 13. (currently amended) The process of claim 7 or 8, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of
tri-(n-butyl)methylphosphonium methylsulfate;